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6 Macinists Rein in AFL Immediately

Reactionaries Seize Control of the New Congress; Old 81st Votes Rails Union Shop and Profits Tax

Brotherhoods Gain Spectacular Last-Minute Passage of Union Security Measure; Early Demand Expected on Carriers

Washington.—Railroad brotherhoods won congressional approval for a union shop for 2,000,000 workers on the nation's rail and air lines.

In an early demand to negotiate such union security is expected to be served on the carriers.

The 81st Congress voted 292-82 on Jan. 1, 1951—during the first New Year's Day session in Capitol memory—authorizing the establishment of the union shop under the National (Railway) Mediation Act.

Director, Rep. Howard Smith of Virginia had blocked action on the bill on Dec. 21 by leading a House strike on the measure by demanding a quorum call of House members, the quorum refusing to report until the bill was laid over to Jan. 1.

All-out efforts by the brotherhoods won the victory. The bill has been endorsed by the 69th AFL Convention in session at Houston when the measure was before the Senate.

Besides enactment of the union shop bill, the "clame duck" session of the 81st Congress completed work on an impressive list of legislation, including:

1. An excess profits tax to raise \$3 to \$4 billion of additional revenue from corporation income.
2. A \$100 million defense appropriations totaling \$20,165,000,000 for defense against communist aggression.
3. A \$100 million defense appropriations calling for mobilization and training of 15,000,000 civilians and preparation for protection against possible nuclear attack.
4. Authorization for construction of 50 fast new cargo vessels to strengthen the merchant marine.

Campbell Elected To Succeed Her

Washington.—The executive council of the AFL American Federation of Government Employees elected James A. Campbell, Cincinnati, president to succeed the late Henry C. Her. Mr. Campbell, 58, was elected at a meeting in the Veterans Administration regional office at Cincinnati, which was held Jan. 3. Mr. Her, who was elected at the union's Omaha convention, died Nov. 29 without ever actively taking over his duties.

Mr. Campbell succeeds the APGE as vice president from 1933 to 1941 and has been active in union affairs since. He resigned his V.A. position to take the APGE presidency. He is married and has 2 sons.

New Format

With this issue, Friday, Jan. 5, 1951, the AFL Weekly News Service appears in new tabloid format.

The only object is to make it a more effective instrument in the service of the newspaper clients and in spreading the ideals and philosophy of the American Federation of Labor.

In its new format, the News Service retains all of its characteristics as a digest of current events and should be more convenient to read and handle as a source of authoritative information about the American Federation of Labor.

Every effort will continue to be made to improve its content and appearance.

Lame Ducks Prove Sen. Taft Wrong

Washington.—Sen. Robert A. Taft said at the start of the lame duck session of the 81st Congress:

"All this session will pass is a motion to adjourn."

The session passed an excess profits bill, union shop for railroads, civil defense law, emergency aid for Yugoslavia, \$20 billion defense appropriations, and extended federal rent controls to March 31, 1951.

U. S. Calls Green To National Parley On Wage Controls

Washington.—The Wage Stabilization Board invited AFL President William Green and other labor and industry representatives to a series of conferences on the formulation of a national wage stabilization policy here Jan. 10-12.

Board Chairman Cyrus S. Ching said that as soon as practicable after the conferences the board will submit recommendations on a national wage policy to Alan Valentine, Economic Stabilization Administrator.

Mr. Green will be accompanied by several other AFL officials to the meetings.

Mr. Ching said the conferences will consider wage stabilization in relation to the problem of time inequities, cost-of-living adjustments, contractual provisions for specific future increases, industry versus area stabilization, wage adjustments within a plant, standardized rates of pay and other economic benefits.

Preliminary plans for establishment of 13 regional field offices of the Economic Stabilization Agency are being drawn up.

The 13 regional locations were chosen in accordance with a general agency plan of defense mobilization agencies as to principal field operations headquarters.

In addition to the 13 continental regional offices, 2 other offices for wage stabilization may be established in Los Angeles and Detroit. It was announced.

New Congress Includes 9 Women Legislators

Washington.—Nine women took seats in the 82d Congress when it opened Jan. 3.

They were Sen. Margaret Chase Smith, Republican of Maine, who voted "right" 10 of 10 times on the AFL voting record check, and 8 in the House:

Mrs. Reva Boone, D. Utah, and Mrs. Edna P. Kelly, D. New York, both of whom were dependable friends of the people in the 81st Congress.

Mrs. Frances P. Bolton, Ohio; Mrs. Marguerite S. Church, Illinois; Mrs. Cecil M. Harden, Indiana; Mrs. Edith Nourse Rogers, Massachusetts; Mrs. Katherine St. George, New York; and Miss Ruth Thompson, Michigan, all Republicans.

The women members of the House, all staunch friends of the people, were among those retiring from the 81st Congress. They were Mrs. Mary T. Norton, New York Democrat, among member of Congress and chairman of the House Labor Committee when the federal wage-hour law was passed; Mrs. Helen Gahagan Douglas, California, and Mrs. Chase G. Woodhouse, Connecticut Democrat.

There were 10 women members of the 81st Congress, a peak reached twice before. Congress has had 8 to 10 female legislators every session since 1929.

Green Hails Reaffiliation of IAM As Strengthening Organized Labor

Washington.—The 600,000 members of the International Association of Machinists rejoined the American Federation of Labor Jan. 4.

The membership voted at local lodge meetings held during December by more than 31 to 1 to reaffiliate with the AFL.

Four days later IAM Secretary-Treasurer Eric Peterson handed AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany a check for \$15,135 in payment of annual per capita tax on 504,530 paid-up members in good standing.

"This is to the very great advantage of the entire labor movement," Mr. Green said.

"It will serve to strengthen and promote the influence of the organ-

ized labor movement not only in the United States but throughout the world."

"The reaffiliation of the Machinists means the elimination of local sectional controversies and the substitution for friction of goodwill, cooperation and a spirit of unity."

With the check, Mr. Peterson also delivered a letter expressing the pleasure of IAM reaffiliation and looking forward to a continuation of the IAM's constructive participation in the advancement of organized labor's objectives and ideals.

Mr. Peterson said that the IAM returned to the AFL on the basis of the agreement reached with the AFL Executive Council in Miami last February and President Green's letter last April.

The reaffiliation brings back into the AFL the largest independent union, the largest union in the aircraft, machine tool, business machine and auto mechanics industries and one of the biggest on the railroads.

The IAM has more than 600,000 members in 1,756 lodge working under contracts with 11,577 employers. The IAM was formed in 1888. It left the AFL in 1943 and again in 1948 in a controversy over jurisdiction.

EARNINGS AT \$2.06

Washington.—Gross weekly earnings of the 13 million production workers in the nation's manufacturing plants averaged \$22.06 in mid-November compared with \$21.99 in October.

Buy union made goods and services.

Taft-Byrd Group Rides High as 82d Begins 2-Year Stand

Washington.—You can expect the worst from the new 82d Congress.

Reactionary Republicans and Democrats took control when the session opened its 2-year term on Jan. 3.

This is the same block which since 1938 has wrecked or attempted to kill every New Deal and Fair Deal piece of legislation for the welfare of all the people and to win world peace.

The old coalition, which AFL President William Green labeled an "unholy alliance" against the people, asserted itself at the first meeting of the new House by voting to turn the clock back 2 years.

By 244 to 170, the Republican-Dixiecrats restored to the House Rules Committee its old pigeon-holing powers. Under the new rule adopted at the first session of the 81st Congress the restored House is limited to 21 days the time which the Rules Committee could hold legislation. Under the restored rule, the Committee can now hold bills forever, as it has in the past.

Sen. Robert A. Taft made a first-day attack on President Truman for picking Jan. 3 as the day when the State of the Union message to Congress would be delivered for Budget message. The co-author of the Taft-Hartley law said Mr. Truman is definitely "not for the Congress."

Democrats elected Sen. Ernest W. McFarland, an Alabama senator, as majority leader to succeed Sen. Scott Lucas of Illinois. Mr. McFarland voted "right" 17 of 20 times in the AFL voting check-list on the sessions of the 81st Congress.

Senate Republicans postponed action on filling the vacancy on the Foreign Relations Committee which was sought by Sen. Wayne Morse and Sen. George D. Aiken in competition with several reactionaries.

Newspapers put the nation on notice as to the kind of Congress to expect with such headlines as "Coalition Takes Control as 82d Congress Opens" and "The House of Representatives Dealers Meet Defeat at Opening of 82d Congress" in the New York Times.

Seabees Praised For Forean Role

Washington.—The U. S. Navy's Seabees, the United States Naval Construction Force, are playing a valiant role in the war against Japan.

This is revealed in the January issue of the Navy's "Seabee" magazine, an article by Capt. Frederick C. Ray, assistant commander of the 2d Fleet of Vards and Dock.

The Seabees, largely made up of AFL union construction workers, have been participating effectively in the war against Japan since the Red aggressors in Korea.

American labor can take pride that the Navy's fighting Seabees have been playing a valiant role in the war against Japan.

"The Seabee regulars are men already in the service and are ready for action wherever they are sent. At the same time, they are ready for action wherever they are sent."

Capt. Ray writes that the Seabees' greatest need just now is "volunteers" in the construction trades. The age bracket is 20 to 44. A former member of the Seabee organization of 501 plus the number of years he previously served on active duty.



FRANK EDWARDS—News Commentator, Mutual Broadcasting System (MBS) Nightly, Monday through Friday—10 a.m. EST.

AMERICA UNDEEN—Forum, National Broadcasting Company (NBC) Sunday, 12 noon EST.

CROSS SECTION USA—Interview, Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) Saturday, 4:30 p.m. EST.

Listen to these programs in which the American Federation of Labor participates. Consult your local newspaper for exact date and time your local station to carry these programs.

Good Radio Listening!

AFLers Urged to Put Higher Pay in Bonds

Washington. — Wages must be raised to compensate for higher cost of living and increased productivity.

The AFL Laborer's Monthly Survey says "union members, however, have immediate personal responsibilities in fighting inflation" by not rushing to buy scarce consumer goods and by putting higher wages in U. S. Savings Bonds. The survey said:

"Millions of workers will have more money to spend in 1951. Overtime pay will increase, more will be employed, and wages are rising. Business income will increase too, but more of this will be taken in taxes and much of the rest must be spent for plant expansion.

This new income, earned by workers and management in manufacturing military equipment for Uncle Sam, will cost at least \$20 billion a year under the present program, even after today's higher taxes have been paid out of it.

Most of the new income will be paid to workers. This means that workers will have more money to spend for consumer goods, at a time when there will be fewer goods on the market to buy with it. For production of many consumer items, especially metals, is being cut back to save materials and plant capacity for defense work.

So when workers' families go out to buy in 1951, they will find many kinds of goods scarce—appliances, furniture, autos, etc. All of us must meet this new scarcity in a sane and sensible way if we want to avoid serious losses. We must recognize that if people rush to buy scarce goods regardless of cost, they will bid prices to exorbitant new peaks, robbing themselves and everyone else.

The best policy for union members is to: watch prices. If they have risen unreasonably, your money and buy U. S. Savings Bonds. This will help your country and you, because (1) You will help to prevent price rises; (2) You will not waste your own money but save it at interest for future use; (3) Your savings will help Uncle Sam to pay military costs without causing inflation.

Wages increases are the workers' only means of advancing his living standards. When higher pay earned by economies in production, cuts in costs, improvements in the work process, wage increases cannot cause inflation by forcing employers to raise prices. Those who would link wages and prices without considering increased productivity would only bring confusion and do injustice to workers.

During the early postwar years and again in 1950, prices have often risen without relation to wages or other costs, bringing huge profits to American corporations. In 1947 a new all-time profit peak was reached, only to be exceeded in 1948, and in 1950 profits have even surpassed the 1948 high.

The sacrifices necessary to combat our present inflationary danger must be equally shared by all.

The survey proposes first the establishment of voluntary control measures, with agreement by both sides to act jointly and equitably. Until this is done we have no choice except to protect ourselves by securing the largest possible wage increases. Business men have advanced their prices rapidly since the Korean war; the index for basic commodities has risen 36 percent from June 23 to Dec. 15, while sale prices 10 percent.

Hutchings Demands Better Wage Deal For Office Workers

Washington. — President Paul R. Hutchings of the AFL Office Employees International Union urged a better deal for the nation's "white collar" workers under wage stabilization than they received during World War II.

In a letter to Chairman Cyrus S. Ching of the National Wage Stabilization Board, Mr. Hutchings urged the Wage Stabilization Board to consider the millions of "white collar" workers in drafting its wage stabilization rules so that such rules can have equitable application to this large group of essential workers.

He said that, based on "experience with the wage stabilization rules applied in World War II, it is our conviction that they were extraordinarily restrictive and unreasonably harsh when applied to office workers."

The Wage Stabilization Board's attention was called to the fact that "while most American workers held their own, or even improved their position somewhat during World War II, the wartime and post-war inflation has left office workers in a serious disadvantage." Three principal defects in the previous wage stabilization program as applied to white collar employees were emphasized:

1. The unfairness of any rule which permits wage increases only on a percentage basis, while the cost of living formula of the War Labor Board. This formula permitted a 16 percent increase. Its application to low-paid office workers widened the discrepancy between depressed office and the higher rates achieved by other workers were generally disregarded under the World War II program.

3. The board should not overlook the obvious principle that beginning jobs in the plant and office which have the same minimum education and experience requirements should be evaluated and compensated similarly. This principle was overlooked in the World War II stabilization program.

SETS NEW RATES

Washington. — Effective Jan. 23, 1951, minimum wages ranging from 88 cents to \$1.40 an hour will be required for work on contracts for more than \$10,000 let by the government in the "Chemical and Related Products Industry," as defined under the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act.

Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin found these rates to be the prevailing minima in the industry after a lengthy study of the record of a public hearing held in November 1949 in Washington, D. C.

The secretary's official determination, \$1.40 an hour in the 48 states and the District of Columbia for the Bone Black, Carbon Black and Lamp Black Branch of the industry.

Buy Independence Bonds.



ILGWU HISTORY BEST SELLER—New York. — The 58th anniversary illustrated history of the AFL International Ladies Garment Workers headed by AFL Vice President David Dubinsky is a best seller at Macy's. The handsome volume has gone into a second printing for public sale. It was prepared by the staff of Justice, ILGWU official newspaper.

ILGWU Starts Sale of Its History

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York. — A unique history of an AFL union is being sold in bookstores throughout the city and selling well because of its unusual format. To celebrate its 50th anniversary, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union published an illustrated history of the union comprising for the most part old newspaper and magazine clippings. The staff of the ILGWU biweekly paper, Justice, researched papers and periodicals, going back 50 years. When they finished they put the material into a tabloid format.

What is interesting about the project is that everything was published just as it was written. The history contains 463 news and 288 pictures from almost 100 newspapers, magazines and reports.

The ILGW picture history was originally published as a souvenir for the union's 50th anniversary convention but so many demands came from the outside that it was reprinted for the general public and sold in sale in major book stores at \$1 a copy.

The history is divided into 12 periods, in many ways paralleling the history of the U. S. labor movement. Copies are available by mail from ILGWU News-History, 1710 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y., for \$1.

CANADA AWARD

Ottawa. — Canadian railroad workers, forced to end a strike last summer by a special session and act of Parliament, have been awarded their just demands for a wage increase and 40-hour week.

Mr. Justice Kellock, government-appointed arbitrator, has awarded the union demand of 7-cent an hour wage increase as of Sept. 1 last, and has awarded the 40-hour week as of June 1, 1951, as requested by the union.

With all the cards stacked against the unions, and with government taking no interest in the workers' case (except to force the men back to work when even resulted in a strike) the union stand has been vindicated by the findings of a disinterested arbitrator.

Buy Independence Bonds.

USES Ignores AFL On Labor Imports Undercutting Pay

San Francisco. — The wages of domestic farm workers employed by one firm in the San Jose area were cut from 80 cents to 75 cents an hour as Mexican nationals were brought in during the first two weeks of December. Ernesto Galarza, resident director of the AFL National Farm Labor Union, charges.

Mr. Galarza asked Governor Warren for a full and public investigation of the whole situation.

About 150 Mexican nationals arrived in the Santa Clara Valley that had been hired at 75 cents an hour. Contrary to the arrangements made last fall, the employment service failed to check with the National Farm Labor Union office of the area as to the availability of labor prior to arranging for the importation of Mexican nationals.

Prior to the arrival of these Mexicans the current California domestic workers, most of whom are of Mexican origin, had been 80 cents cutting livestock. Farmers hired the nationals at 75 cents and then announced that all wages would be "stabilized" at the same figure, or 5 cents less than domestic workers were currently receiving.

The international agreement between the United States and Mexico states that nationals are to be paid the prevailing wage. Obviously, the contrary is happening here. Domestic workers are to be paid the wage prevailing for nationals.

AIRS PRAISE

New York. — Liston M. Oak, Voice of America labor commentator, noted that the formal observance of the Samuel Gompers Centennial in a broad-based campaign in 23 languages to countries around the world.

Be independent—buy Independence Bonds.

Public Power Project in Arizona Attempts to Bust IBEW, Tracy Says

Washington. — D. W. Tracy, president of the AFL International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, charged that the public power program in Arizona is operated by a "dummy" Salt River Project Power District, is using public ownership in an old-fashioned campaign of union busting.

The charge was made in connection with a strike of approximately 1,200 members of IBEW Local Union 206 of Phoenix, Ariz. who are employed on the electric light and power system and irrigation properties owned by the Public Power Project. The Salt River Project, which is operated by the district, is one of the oldest reclamation projects of the Department of Interior. The strike began Tuesday, Dec. 18, 1950.

Mr. Tracy said there are two issues in the labor dispute:

(1) The refusal of the Public Power District to continue a 4-year-old collective bargaining agreement which was entered into between the IBEW and the private institution which previously managed the project.

(2) The refusal of the Public Power District to make adequate correction of the present sub-standard wage scales of its employees.

The Public Power District has applied to the Superior Court of Maricopa County, Ariz., for a permanent order enjoining the IBEW from trying to secure a collective bargaining agreement.

agreement with the Public Power District which the employees had while the project was under private ownership. The court issued a temporary restraining order against the union and its officers on Dec. 22, 1950.

The Public Power District is relying on its "dummy" status as "government" in its application for the restraining order. The district was set up to secure a collective bargaining agreement.

The IBEW has had a collective bargaining agreement covering the power and irrigation functions of the Salt River Project since Oct. 1, 1940, when the entire project was operated by a private institution.

Mr. Tracy also said that the present difficulty originated in October 1949 when the electric light and power system was transferred from private ownership to public ownership. The Secretary of the Interior approved the transfer to public operation Oct. 4, 1949.

The employees on the power and irrigation operations of the Salt River Project have not had an adjustment in wages for two years.

Mr. Tracy said that it is fantastic to find that the public power program, which had the support of all organized labor in the United States, is being used to destroy collective bargaining by breaking unions and to keep the sub-standard wages and conditions of labor.



Washington, D. C.

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Founder and First President
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1951: BUYING POWER WILL RISE, BUT GOODS FOR CONSUMERS TO BUY WILL NOT INCREASE



—AFL Labor's Monthly Survey